

Appl. No. : 10/785,331
Filed : February 24, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant has requests to amend Figure 3 to add a legend --Prior Art -- to designate that the illustrated is old, as described in the section titled "Description of the Related Art" of the instant specification.

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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. Claim 8 has been added. Support for the new claim can found on page 18, lines 12-18, for example. Fig. 3 was amended to include a legend "Prior Art" upon the filing of the instant application. However, as the Office action indicates that the drawings are objected to, the amendment to Fig. 3 is herewith resubmitted. No new matter has been raised in the amendments. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (US6,853,460) in view of Suzuki (US6,347,162). Claim 1 is independent and has been amended to clarify the subject matter. With reference to Fig. 1 showing an embodiment, claim 1 recites:

An image data processing system comprising:

- an image inputting section (1) for inputting image data;
- an image processing section (3) that performs image processing on the input image data to create image data for printing;
- a first controlling section (4) that performs controls over said image inputting section (1) and said image processing section (3);
- an image transmitting section (8) capable of simultaneously transmitting said image data for printing to a print preparing device (C) and to an image storing device (B);
- the print preparing device (C); and
- **the image storing device (B) being independent of the first controlling section (4), said image storing device (B) including:**
 - an image receiving section (20) that receives said image data for printing that are transmitted from said image transmitting section (8);
 - a storing medium (21) for storing the received image data; and
 - **a second controlling section (24) that performs controls over said image receiving section (20) and said storing medium (21).**

Due to the above configurations where each separate control section (the first controlling section and the second controlling section) having each designated function as recited, significant advantages are exhibited.

The process of storing the image data into the storing medium can be carried out by the second controlling section which is independent from the first controlling section. Therefore, subsequent processes on the image data for printing

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transmitted to the image storing device side are carried out under the instructions from the second controlling section of the image storing device. In other words, **the process of storing the image data into the storing medium can be carried out separately from the image processing in the image processing section and the inputting process in the image inputting section (without affecting these).** For example, in addition to storing the received image data for printing as they are, the image data can be stored after being subjected to some processing. As a result, an image data processing system can be provided in which **the efficiency of preparing prints does not fall when the image data are stored into the storing medium in parallel with the process of preparing the prints.** (*Specification*, page 5, line 19 through page 6, line 19, Emphasis added.)

Thus, because the image processing section and the image storing section each have the separate control section, the image storing can be efficiently performed in parallel with the inputting processing and the image processing. The above configurations and the advantages are not taught by the prior art of record.

The Office action states: "Yamamoto discloses *** a second controlling section (24) that performs controls over said image receiving section (20) and said storing medium (22) (e.g., The controller mechanism of Computer 50 in Figure 1)."

However, Yamamoto does not disclose the second controlling section that performs controls over said image receiving section and said storing medium which are **independent** of the first controlling section as recited in the claim. Yamamoto states in its specification that the A/D converter 44, **the image processing circuit 45**, the interface circuit 47, and **a recording operation of the recording medium R are controlled by the system control circuit 40** (see column 3, lines 32-35). In Yamamoto, both the image process circuit and the recording operation are controlled by the same control circuit.

Further, Yamamoto states "when the recording operation cannot be performed, the recording operation is prohibited and a transfer operation in which the image data is transferred to the computer is allowed. Further, an indication implying that the image data will be transferred to the computer is shown by a display panel so that a mishandling is prevented (see abstract)". In Yamamoto, the computer 50 receives the image data when the recording operation is **prohibited** and the image data is transferred to a hard disk of the computer 50 (column 8, lines 10-19). The computer 50 disclosed in Yamamoto is used merely as a back-up storing medium. The system of Yamamoto is dissimilar to the

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system recited in the claim where the image processor and the image storing device are separately and independently controlled.

Furthermore, because Yamamoto simply teaches a back-up storing medium, Yamamoto is irrelevant to using the claimed separate control section in the image processor and the image storing device and Yamamoto provides no evidence of predictability of the advantages discussed above obtained from the claimed separate controlling section.

Additionally, Yamamoto gives absolutely no indication of a print preparation device or any kind of printing device.

Likewise, Suzuki gives absolutely no indication of the separate control sections for (i) controlling the image inputting section and the image processing section, and (ii) controlling the image receiving section and the storing medium. In Suzuki, **both image processing and image data storing are controlled by CPU 42 via image data bus 46** (column 6, lines 20-58). Thus, the suggested modification of combining Yamamoto and Suzuki does not lead to the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 cannot be obvious over Yamamoto and Suzuki. The remaining claims depend ultimately from claim 1, and at least for this reason, the remaining claims also cannot be obvious over Yamamoto and Suzuki.

New Claim

Claim 8 has been added. Neither Yamamoto nor Suzuki discloses a buffer memory that is included in an image receiving section. At least for this reason, claim 8 is patentable.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

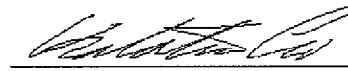
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 29, 2007

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